Please add new claims 79-93 as follows:

79. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising nucleotides having a sequence which encodes an Activator of G Protein Signaling ("AGS") protein which comprises amino acids having a sequence which is at least 98% homologous to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

80. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 79, wherein the protein comprises amino acids having a sequence which is at least 99% homologous to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

81. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 79, which encodes a protein comprising amino acids having a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

82. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 79, wherein said protein activates G protein-coupled signal transduction in a G protein-coupled receptor independent manner.

83. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 79, wherein said nucleic acid is a human nucleic acid.

84. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising nucleotides having a sequence encoding the same AGS protein, which is encoded by the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, or a full complement to the isolated nucleic acid.

85. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 84, wherein the nucleotides have a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

86. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 84, comprising nucleotides having a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

87. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 84, which encodes a protein that activates G protein-coupled signal transduction in a G protein-coupled receptor independent manner.

88. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 84, which is a human nucleic acid molecule.

89. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 79.

90. (New) The vector of claim 89, which is a recombinant expression vector.

91. (New) A host cell containing the vector of claim 89.

92. (New) A method for producing an AGS protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 91 in a suitable medium such that AGS protein is produced.

93. (New) The method of claim 92, further comprising isolating an AGS protein from the medium of the host cell.